



The Voice of Small Business

To: Honorable Members of the House Commerce Committee

From: Charlie Owens, State Director

Date: October 9, 2007

Re: House Bill 4443

We are writing to ask that you do not support House Bill 4443, that would seek to prohibit expenditures of state funds on "activities that interfere with or discourage unionization".

It is our opinion that this bill would interfere with the free speech rights of businesses and business owners to legally communicate their opinions to employees concerning attempts by labor unions to organize their workforce.

The bill defines "Interfere with or discourage unionization" as including "hiring or consulting persons to advise on means to deter or impede a labor organization that represent employees from fulfilling its representation responsibilities". Under this reasoning if a small business, that is not well versed in labor law and the legalities of union organizing, seeks counsel or hires a firm to help them secure their rights they would no longer be allowed to do business with the state.

This bill is an affront to the free speech rights of employers and non-union workers. To use the power of the state purse to intimidate employers trying to secure their rights in the face of a well financed and experienced labor union organizing drive is unconscionable.

We respectfully request that you do not report this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your support of small business.